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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, In 1987 Linda Hawker was appointed Secretary of the Illinois Senate, the first woman to hold the post in the Illinois General Assembly; and

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WHEREAS, As we honor Linda Hawker today, we stand in the newly renovated and restored Senate Chamber that, as Co-Chair of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol board, she was deeply involved in the details of the renovation and instrumental in seeing this project through to completion; and

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WHEREAS, From 1971 to 1980, she worked for the Senate Democrat Leadership staff under former Senate Presidents Cecil Partee, Thomas Hynes and Philip Rock; and then as a Public Affairs Associate at Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield) where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science; and

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WHEREAS, She then returned to staff as a special assistant to former Senate President Philip J. Rock who in 1987 provided her the opportunity to serve as the first woman in the post of Secretary of the Illinois Senate; and

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WHEREAS, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. further entrusted her with the responsibility of that position when he was elected Senate Democratic Leader in 1993; and

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WHEREAS, While Linda Hawker has accomplished many things during her twenty years serving both as Secretary and as Assistant Secretary, she has made it her priority to ensure that the proceedings of the Illinois Senate are fully transparent and easily accessible to the public, just one example of her commitment and integrity; and

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WHEREAS, Linda has worked closely with Senate President

1 Emil Jones, Jr. on his efforts to make the Senate proceedings  
2 available on the Internet, and with his support worked with  
3 internal technology experts to develop a state of the art  
4 voting system that has improved efficiency as well as being  
5 adaptable to our changing environment; and

6 WHEREAS, Secretary Hawker has also coordinated efforts to  
7 automate the Journal Room functions including the integration  
8 of Bill Status, filing of legislative measures, Daily Calendar,  
9 Daily Journal, and committee hearing notices, leading to  
10 greater accuracy; and

11 WHEREAS, Linda has ably managed numerous budgets in her job  
12 as Secretary of the Senate and her knowledge and skills in  
13 parliamentary procedure are highly regarded and respected; and

14 WHEREAS, As Secretary of the Illinois Senate, Linda has  
15 also been extremely active in the American Society of  
16 Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, serving as committee chair  
17 and vice chair, as well as submitting articles to the  
18 *Legislative Administrator* and the *Professional Journal*,  
19 hosting professional development seminars, and working on the  
20 host committee of the 2000 NCSL annual conference held in  
21 Chicago; for her many efforts she was awarded the National  
22 Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Staff Achievement  
23 Award of 2006; and

24 WHEREAS Linda Hawker is committed to the Springfield  
25 community where she grew up, serving on numerous boards and  
26 committees, including the Springfield Urban League, the Center  
27 for the Study of Middle-Sized Cities, the Springfield Energy  
28 Project, the Committee to Study the Honesty and Integrity of  
29 Springfield Elections, the Springfield Election Commission,  
30 the UIS Alumni Council, Sister Cities International, and  
31 Illinois Democratic Women; she is a founding member of Illinois  
32 Women in Government and the Illinois Women's Institute for

1 Leadership; and

2 WHEREAS, Linda has been blessed in her professional life  
3 but profoundly blessed in her personal life as mother to  
4 Brittany, mother-by-marriage to Michelle, Tim and Molly and  
5 grandmother to Maureen and Gracie; and

6 WHEREAS, It is with high esteem and great affection that we  
7 wish Linda Hawker the very best that the future has to offer;  
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Linda  
11 Hawker on her more than 35 years of service to the people of  
12 Illinois and to the Illinois Senate; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to Linda Hawker as a token of our thanks for her many  
15 efforts on behalf of the members of this body and the citizens  
16 of the State of Illinois.